

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A technique for improving open loop power control in spread spectrum telecommunications systems is disclosed. In a preferred embodiment, the technique is realized by transmitting at least one first access channel probe for a first message from a mobile station to a base station, wherein the transmission power level of each access channel probe in the at least one first access channel probe is increased until a base station acknowledgment is received for a specific access channel probe of the at least one first access channel probe at a first transmission power level. The first transmission power level is then stored at the mobile station. At least one second access channel probe for a second message is then transmitted from the mobile station to the base station, wherein the transmission power level of an initial access channel probe of the at least one second access channel probe for the second message is based upon the first transmission power level.